GRADES 3-5

Vocabulary:

axis
chromosphere
convection layer
core
cycle
diameter
dwarf
element
observation
photosphere
radiation layer
satellite
sphere
ultraviolet rays

Activities:

1. Pre/Post Assessment

   Student worksheet to assess the student's prior knowledge of the Sun and sunspots.

2. Background information on the Sun and sunspots

   Read and discuss the NASA booklet *Our Very Own Star: The Sun* listed in the Internet guide and the book *The Sun* by Herbert Zim listed in the resource guide. Use this information for a class discussion and review about facts about the Sun—its type, shape, distance, size, etc. See Internet sites #1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16, page 22.

3. Galileo Sees the Light

   Information and question sheet on Galileo, his telescope, and experiments observing the Sun, sunspots, and the planets. See Internet sites #3, 8, and 11.

4. Sunspot Poems

   After reading the books and reviewing the Web sites in activity #2, students will write a poem about sunspots. See Internet site #11—Solar poetry.

5. Layers of the Sun Worksheet

   Student worksheet that has the student labeling the 4 layers of the Sun and the 2 layers of the Sun's atmosphere. See Internet sites #6, 11, 12, and 14.

6. Our Very Own Star: The Sun puzzle

   Student worksheet reviewing basic facts about the Sun and sunspots. (Activities #7-10 are found in the grades K-2 section.)

7. Making a Homemade Sunspot Viewer

   Teacher worksheet that gives directions on how to assemble and use the sunspot viewer. The class needs to complete this activity with teacher direction. Teacher should then save the tracing sheets in order to complete the sunspot viewer review. See Internet site #2.

8. Sunspot Viewer Review

   Student worksheet to discuss tracings of the Sun and the sunspots.

9. Sunspot Flip Book

   Students will assemble the Flip book.

10. Sunspot Flip Book Journal

    Student worksheet analyzing the results of the sunspot flip book.

11. Sunspot Numbers

    Student worksheet that demonstrates the 11-year cycle of sunspots. See Internet sites #7, 11, and 17.